EXTRA CARE HOME
LEASE HILL, SWINDON
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2450
CA REPORT: 07159

prepared by
David Cudlip: Project Officer

date
21 November 2007

checked by
Laurent Coleman: Project Manager

date
21 November 2007

approved by
Mark Collard, Head of Contracts

signed


date
22 November 2007

issue
01

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:1000)
SUMMARY

Project Name: Extra Care Home
Location: Lease Hill, Swindon
NGR: NGR SU 1315 8733
Type: Evaluation
Date: 12 November 2007
Planning Reference: S/07/2417
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number: SWIMG 2007.23
Site Code: LHS 07

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2007 at the request of Leadbitter Construction on behalf of Housing 21 at the Extra Care Home, Lease Hill, Swindon. Four trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified, and no material pre-dating the modern period was observed in the course of the evaluation.
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In November 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Leadbitter Construction on behalf of Housing 21 at the Extra Care Home, Lease Hill, Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 1315 8733; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of a new residential care home on the site.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC), archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 14th November 2007.

**The site**

1.3 The site is bounded to the west by The Street, to the north by residential properties, to the east by Branksome Road, and to the south by residential properties and a Community Centre. The site lies at approximately 111.6m AOD on the crest of a slight hill.

1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.45ha, and comprises the site of the recently demolished residential care home.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Coral Rag of the Jurassic era (BGS 1974).

**Archaeological background**

1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location within the settlement of Mordun as depicted by the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record (SMR No. SU18NW402). This settlement is thought to be of Saxon origin.
**Archaeological objectives**

1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Swindon Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

**Methodology**

1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 4 trenches, each measuring 15m in length and 1.8m in width; these were located to avoid areas disturbed by the pre-existing building, whilst lying within the footprint of the proposed development. Trenches 3 and 4 were moved to avoid services, with the approval of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger.

1.9 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.10 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003); in this instance no deposits were identified that required sampling.

1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery under accession number SWIMG 2007.23. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.
2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

\textit{Trenches 1-4}

2.2 The natural substrate, 107, 202, 201 and 404, comprising limestone fragments in a matrix of silty clay was identified at depths of between 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl), trench 1, and 0.2m bpgl, trench 3.

2.3 The natural substrate was overlain by topsoil, 101, 300 and 401, comprising dark grey brown clay silt within trenches 1, 3 and 4 and a modern gravel make-up layer and a modern road surface within trench 2. A modern wall and services were also identified in trenches 1 and 4. Rubble derived from the demolition of the pre-existing building covered the topsoil within trenches 1 and 4.

2.4 No deposits or features of archaeological interest were identified within this trench, and no material pre-dating the modern period was observed.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The evaluation identified no deposits or features of archaeological interest. The absence of a subsoil horizon and the identification of modern layers directly overlying the natural substrate (trench 2) may suggest that the upper surface of the natural substrate, and any archaeological remains contained therein, may have been destroyed during works associated with the construction of the pre-existing building.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Cudlip, assisted by Catherine Barton-Jones and Victoria Rees. The report was written by David Cudlip. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by David Cudlip, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.
5. REFERENCES


CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 Extra Care Home, Lease Hill, Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
# APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

## Trench 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Spot-date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Modern demolition rubble</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>modern</td>
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<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Topsoil; dark grey brown clay silt</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>modern</td>
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<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>Service trench cut</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>Modern service</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>Construction cut for wall 105</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Masonry</td>
<td>Modern brick wall</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>Backfill of 104</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Natural substrate; limestone fragments in a matrix of orange brown silty clay</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>geological</td>
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## Trench 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Spot-date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Layer</td>
<td>Tarmacadam</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Gravel make up</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Natural substrate; limestone fragments in a matrix of orange brown silty clay</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>geological</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Trench 3

<table>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Spot-date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Topsoil; dark grey brown clay silt</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>modern</td>
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<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Natural substrate; limestone fragments in a matrix of orange brown silty clay</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
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## Trench 4

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<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Spot-date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Modern demolition rubble</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Topsoil; dark grey brown clay silt</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>Modern service</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Unexc.</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>403</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>Service trench cut</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Unexc.</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Natural substrate; limestone fragments in a matrix of orange brown silty clay</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>geological</td>
</tr>
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# APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

## PROJECT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Extra Care Home, Lease Hill, Swindon, Wiltshire</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short description (250 words maximum)</td>
<td>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2007 at the request of Leadbitter Construction on behalf of Housing 21 at Lease Hill, Swindon. Four trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified, and no material pre-dating the modern period was observed in the course of the evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project dates</td>
<td>12 November 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)</td>
<td>Evaluation comprising excavation of four trenches, each 15m by 1.8m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)</td>
<td>None known</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future work</td>
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## PROJECT LOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Location</th>
<th>Extra Care Home, Lease Hill, Swindon, Wiltshire</th>
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<tr>
<td>Study area (M²/ha)</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)</td>
<td>NGR SU 1315 8733</td>
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## PROJECT CREATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of organisation</th>
<th>Cotswold Archaeology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Brief originator</td>
<td>Cotswold Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Design (WSI) originator</td>
<td>Cotswold Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Laurent Coleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Supervisor</td>
<td>David Cudlip</td>
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## PROJECT ARCHIVES

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<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<td>Physical</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Digital</td>
<td>Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Accession number: SWIMG 2007.23</td>
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</table>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY
Site location plan

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Extra Care Home, Lease Hill
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY
JE

SCALE
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.
2450

FIGURE NO.
1
COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Extra Care Home, Lease Hill
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY
JE

SCALE
1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.
2450

FIGURE NO.
2

site
evaluation trench